

Communiqué

Meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia February 2014

The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board meets face to face each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board.

Common guidelines, Code of conduct and a new Social media policy

The Board and other National Boards have released a suite of documents on the website that will come into effect from 17 March 2014.

The feedback from the consultation process was taken into account when Boards finalised the new codes, guidelines and the new *Social media policy*.

The documents contain important information and are the:

- revised *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services*
- revised *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*
- revised *Code of conduct*, and
- a new *Social media policy*

These are important documents which provide guidance to occupational therapists to ensure their practice is in accordance with expectations as guided by the National Law.

Additional information available on the Board's website include FAQ on the transition from the current to the new/revised documents and information showing the differences between the current and revised *Mandatory notifications guidelines* and the current and revised shared *Code of conduct*.

Audits for occupational therapists

Auditing of occupational therapists commenced in late 2013 and will continue throughout 2014 and involves verifying whether individual practitioners have complied with registration standards, in accordance with their declarations at initial registration and renewal. AHPRA and the National Boards have developed audit methodology, which has been informed by pilot audits conducted for the chiropractic, nursing and midwifery, optometry and pharmacy professions.

A random sample of occupational therapists will be audited each year. Detailed information about the audit can be found on the Board's website – see the Audit section under the Registration standards tab.

If you are selected for audit, you will receive an audit notice in the mail from AHPRA. It includes a checklist that outlines what supporting documentation is required to demonstrate that you meet the standard(s) being audited.

The standards applicable to audit for occupational therapy include:

- Continuing Professional Development
- Criminal History
- Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Recency of Practice.

OT practitioner breakfast forum NSW – meet the National Board – Friday 28 March 7.30am

A breakfast and information session for practitioners will be conducted in conjunction with the OTAL NSW and ACT 2014 conference. All occupational therapists are invited to meet with the Board and AHPRA staff to learn more about the National Scheme and to ask any questions you have. These events are a valuable opportunity for the Board to hear from practitioners.

The forum will include a presentation from the National Board Chair Dr Mary Russell and provide an opportunity for practitioners to take part in a Q&A session and to network with peers.

The National Board would like to thank Occupational Therapy Australia (OTAL) for allowing the Board to hold this event ahead of the OTAL Divisional NSW & ACT 2014 Conference and for venue access prior to conference registration.

(Please note that this forum is a free event and is open to ALL occupational therapists however, not just OTAL members or conference delegates).

This will be the Board's first breakfast forum for 2014.

Date: Friday 28 March, 2014

Time: 7.30 – 8.30am for National Board presentation via Board Chair, Dr Mary Russell including Q&A
Doors open from 7.15am

Venue: Room 6A, Bay 4 Building
Australian Technology Park, Sydney

Cost: No charge, this event is free and open to ALL occupational therapists

RSVP: www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSW_ACT_breakfast_forum_March_2014

An event flyer with additional information is also published to the National Board's website.

Chair



Dr Mary Russell
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia